

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PA-02

USIE-00 /024 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS:IPERNICK:AVW

APPROVED BY S/PRS:RLFUNSETH

S/S -JMEALUM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 060883

TOSEC 711

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, H. A.)

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, MARCH 18

NO. 33

TO AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES ACTING SPOKESMAN'S RESPONSES:

1. AID TO CAMBODIA: FUNSETH EXPRESSED OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT DOD IS MAKING DELIVERIES AGAINST \$21.5 MILLION DISCOVERED UNDELIVERED FROM FY 74 CAMBODIA MAP. WE ASSUME IF DOD IS MAKING DELIVERIES AGAINST THAT AMOUNT THAT IT IS LEGAL OR THEY WOULD NOT BE MAKING THEM. NOT AWARE IF SFRC HAS OFFICIALLY CHALLENGED LEGALITY OF DELIVERIES.

ADMINISTRATION'S PRESENT POSITION ON CAMBODIAN AID IS CONTAINED IN ACTING SECY ROBINSON'S LETTER OF MARCH 17 TO HFAC IN WHICH DEPT RECOMMENDED THAT "FULL COMMITTEE... REPORT FAVORABLY THE HAMILTON-DUPONT COMPROMISE WITH REGARD TO ADDITIONAL CAMBODIAN FINDINGS, SO HOUSE CAN UNCLASSIFIED

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WORK ITS WILL." MEANWHILE ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH AND IN CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS.

2. VIETNAMESE WITHDRAWAL FROM CENTRAL HIGHLANDS: FUNSETH STATED HE DID NOT KNOW IF GVN INFORMED US IN ADVANCE OF ANY INTENTION TO WITHDRAW. MOREOVER, HE COULD NOT CONFIRM SUCH A WITHDRAWAL HAD, IN FACT, TAKEN PLACE. HE NOTED THAT SITUATION IN CENTRAL HIGHLANDS IS FLUID, AND WE DO NOT HAVE COMPLETE INFORMATION. HE SAID ON BACKGROUND THAT WITH RESTRICTED LOGISTICS AND MOBILITY GVN HAS DIFFICULTY DEFENDING ALL PARTS OF SVN, AND IN FACE OF PRESSURE NOW BEING FACED, IT IS INEVITABLE THAT SOME TERRITORY WILL BE LOST INITIALLY.

3. AMERICANS IN BAN ME THUOT: THE LAST RADIO CONTACT BETWEEN EMBASSY SAIGON AND AMERICANS IN BAN ME THUOT TOOK PLACE 11:30 P.M. EDT, MARCH 11.

4. BREZHNEV LETTER ON CSCE: HE REFERRED REQUESTS FOR COMMENT TO WHITE HOUSE. HE STATED WE CONTINUE TO ORK ACTIVELY WITH OTHERS TO HAVE CSCE CONCLUDED AT EARLIEST DATE AND AT HIGHEST LEVEL COMMENSURATE WITH RESULTS ACHIEVED.

5. CONTACTS WITH KURDS: (NYTIMES REPORTED ALLEGED KURDISH CONTACTS WITH U. S. OFFICIALS IN IRAN TO INTERVENE WITH IRAN FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE KURDS.) FUNSETH STATED WE HAVE RECEIVED NO SUCH REPORTS FROM OUR POSTS IN IRAN. WE ALSO HAVE LITTLE CONFIRMED INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN KURDISH AREA OF IRAQ. HE CONTINUED THAT AT VARIOUS TIMES IN PAST WHEN KURDISH REPRESENTATIVES HAVE APPROACHED USG, WE HAVE STRESSED U.S. NON-INVOLVEMENT. U.S., HOWEVER, IS CONCERNED WHERE HUMANITARIAN MATTERS ARE INVOLVED AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT A WAY CAN BE FOUND TO END SUFFERING OF PEOPLE INVOLVED AND TO RESTORE A PEACEFUL SITUATION IN THAT REGION.

6. SALT: WE POSTED FOLLOWING RESPONSE TO YESTERDAY'S QUESTION ON PROPOSED U. S. DRAFT TREATY: SINCE SALT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE RESUMED (JANUARY 31), EACH SIDE HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESENTED ITS VIEWS, AND E ARE TRYING TO WORK TOWARD A COMMON DRAFT AGREEMENT WHICH WILL EMBODY PRINCIPLES AGREED UPON AT VLADIVOSTOK. IT IS CORRECT THAT WE HAVE TABLED DRAFT LANGUAGE FOR AN EVENTUAL TREATY TEXT. PROGRESS IS BEINGMADE, ALTHOUGH MUCH DIFFICULT WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE. INGERSOLL

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